(b) if so, to what extent; and (Rs. in crore)

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) No, Sir as no such recommendation has been received in the Ministry of Finance from Government of Rajasthan.

"Violation of norms for crediting interest"

2217. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2935 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th August, 2003 and state:

(a) whether Government have received information that State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, Janak Puri Branch, New Delhi is violating the provision with regard to crediting interest by 31st March of every year and also violating on payment of interest for the month on payments made by cheque by 5th of month but cleared after that date; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBAADSUL): (a) and (b) The interest on Public Provident Fund (PPF) accounts at Janakpuri, New Delhi Branch of the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur is normally credited on 31st March. Interest for the last year was, however, applied on 4.4.2003 because of computer system's failure. The PPF account holders have, however, not been affected.

The date of tender of a local cheque is deemed to be the date of deposit of the cheque. The benefit of interest in such instances is passed on to the account holders by value dating the deposit.

Commercial Bank Advances to NBFCs

2218. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a provision in credit policy review of the Reserve Bank of India that commercial bank advances to Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) for lending to small industries would be treated as priority sector lending;

(b) if so, the details including overall target for mandatory funding for Indian Banks and Foreign Banks for the last three years, year-wise, category-wise; and

(c) the area/sector included and fund sanctioned in concept of priority sector lending, implying a preferential access to bank funds, category-wise, year-wise and State-wise for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIANANDRAO VITHOBAADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no target/sub-target stipulated for lending to non-banking financial companies by the scheduled commercial banks for onlending to Small Scale Industries. The targets stipulated are based on net bank credit. The targets are as under:

Sector	Public Sector banks	Foreign bank
Priority Sector	40% of net bank credit	32%
Agriculture	18% of net bank credit	—
Weaker section	10% of net bank credit	—
Small scale industry	—	10%

(c) The outstanding advances to the priority sector (category-wise) by public sector banks as on the last reporting Friday of March, 2001, March, 2002 and March, 2003 (provisional) are as under:

(Rupees in crore)

As on the last reporting Friday of	March 2001	March 2002	March 2003
Total priority sector advances	149116 (43.7%)	171185 (43.1%)	203095 (42.50%)
Total advances to agriculture	53571 (15.7%	63082 (15.9%)	73507 (15.3%)
SSI advances	48400 (14.2%)	49743 (12.5%)	52988 (11.1%)
Advances to weaker sections	26123 (7.7%)	28975 (7.3%)	32303 (6.8%)

(Figures in brackets indicate % to net bank credit)